

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 – 3 (Canceled)

3. (New) A ceramic composition comprising a glass composition and 0.1 to 0.4 mol of a filler which is at least one of Al_2O_3 and TiO_2 , wherein the composition of the glass composition comprises 0.15 to 0.55 mol of **a** which is an oxide or oxide precursor of a rare earth element or mixtures thereof, 0.45 to 0.85 mol of **b** which is boron oxide B_2O_3 or an oxide precursor thereof, wherein $\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b} = 1$ mol, and 0.01 to 0.2 mol of an oxide or oxide precursor of an alkaline earth metal element.

4. (New) The ceramic composition according to claim 3, comprising a positive amount of up to 0.05 mol of tungsten oxide or an oxide precursor thereof.

5. (New) The ceramic composition according to claim 4 in which the amount of tungsten oxide or precursor is at least 0.005 mol.

6. (New) The ceramic composition according to claim 5, comprising 0.0005 to 0.002 mol of an oxide or oxide precursor of an alkali metal element M.

7. (New) The ceramic composition according to claim 4, comprising 0.0005 to 0.002 mol of an oxide or oxide precursor of an alkali metal element M.

8. (New) The ceramic composition according to claim 3 which contains 0.0005 to 0.002 mol of an oxide or oxide precursor of an alkali metal.

9. (New) The ceramic composition according to claim 3 in which the rare earth

element is at least one of La and Nd.

10. (New) The ceramic composition according to claim 3 in which the alkaline earth metal comprises Ca.

11. (New) The ceramic composition according to claim 3 in which the filler comprises Al_2O_3 .

12. (New) The ceramic composition according to claim 3 in which the filler comprises TiO_2 .

13. (New) The ceramic composition according to claim 3 in which each of the oxides or precursors is the oxide.

14. (New) The ceramic composition according to claim 13, comprising a positive amount of up to 0.05 mol of tungsten oxide.

15. (New) The ceramic composition according to claim 14, comprising 0.0005 to 0.002 mol of an oxide of an alkali metal element, and in which the rare earth element is at least one of La and Nd, and the alkaline earth metal comprises Ca.

16. (New) The ceramic composition according to claim 15 in which the filler comprises Al_2O_3 .

17. (New) The ceramic composition according to claim 16, in which the tungsten oxide amount is 0.005 to 0.05 mol.

18. (New) The ceramic composition according to claim 15 in which the filler comprises TiO₂.

19. (New) A compact comprising a sintered composition of claim 18.

20. (New) A compact comprising a sintered composition of claim 16.

21. (New) A compact comprising a sintered composition of claim 12.

22. (New) A compact comprising a sintered composition of claim 11.

23. (New) A compact comprising a sintered composition of claim 3.